THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) has recently forwarded their observations on an audit titled "Deep Water Exploration" relating to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). They have observed that unfruitful expenditure has been incurred by ONGC.

(c)During the period from March, 2003 to January, 2008, no new oil fields have been given to ONGC for production. However, during this period 39 exploration blocks have been awarded to ONGC (with operatorship) in various rounds of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). In addition, ONGC has participating interest in eight other blocks, awarded during this period where other consortium partners are operators.

ONGC also acquired a Block (KG-DWN-98/2) with 90% Participating Interest and operatorship from Cairn Energy India Pvt. Limited (CEIL) in 2005.

Oil refinery at Allahabad

1971. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Sector Oil Company proposes to set up an oil refinery at Allahabad;

(b) whether the government has finalized its view in this regard; and;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Consequent on de-licensing of refinery sector since June, 1998 a refinery may be set up anywhere in India by a Private or Public Sector Enterprise depending on the promoter's assessment of its commercial viability. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has a proposal for setting up of a 7 MMTPA refinery at Lohagara district Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. The project is linked to the commissioning of the refinery being set up by Bharat Oman Refineries Limited (a Joint Venture Company of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Oman Oil Company Limited) at Bina, as the crude oil import facilities being set up for Bina Refinery project would be augmented suitably to take care of crude requirement for this refinery project also.

Achievement of the target for production of crude oil

†1972. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target was fixed to enhance the production of crude oil for the year 2007-08 in country;

(b) if so, what was that target and to what extent it was more than the production target for 2006-07;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi